

Haley House
Biddeford, Maine
Pool

HABS-ME-36

HABS
ME:

16-BIDPO

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

HABS
ME

16 Bidpo

"HALEY HOUSE"
Biddeford Pool
Biddeford, York County, Maine

Owner

James S. Fletcher

Date of Erection

1720-1730

Builder

Benjamin Haley, Architect and Builder of Meeting Houses.

Present Condition

An extension has been built at the rear of the house. Windows have been replaced and the original door replaced. Probably the building has been clapboarded since originally built.

Description

Two and one half story frame house with gable roof sloping to the first story at the rear. Central chimney. Central front entrance and hall. Original stairway and some old panelling.

Other Existing Records

Newspaper Clipping and photograph of the house in the Biddeford Scrap Book #2, custody of the Maine Historical Society Library, Portland.

Additional Data

It seems that Benjamin Haley, the builder of this house, was friendly with the Indians, and in times of Indian threats, scoffed at the idea of seeking refuge at the garrison located in a field close by the Haley residence, to which all the neighbors fled during Indian uprisings.

One night when the Haleys were alone in their home, two Indians came to the door. They were admitted and soon after entering the house, took fire brands from the fireplace and threw them about, in an attempt to set fire to the building. Mr. Haley seized his musket and drove the Indians from the house. After this incident, the Haleys left their home and joined their neighbors in the garrison.

Even though the men had to go alone to the fields to work during the day, Benjamin Haley had no fear of the Indians as they were aware that he was a crack shot and were careful not to annoy him.

The cattle of the settlement were allowed to roam free but usually returned at night from their pasturage. Each owner had a bell on his cow and could tell by the sound of the bell which one was his property. One night Mr. Haley's cow did not return and as it was growing dark, he went in search of it. The bell was heard in the forest and Haley kept following the sound as it went deeper and deeper into the forest. Finally he caught up with the sound of the bell, and on discovering the source of the sound, he shot off his musket. His friends back in the garrison hearing the shot became alarmed and came to his aid. There in the woods they found the cow which had been killed by the Indians earlier in the day, and her bell removed, and farther into the forest they found Haley's mutilated body where he had been lured away from the settlement by the Indians carrying the cow bell, and slain.

Elmer E. Jannell

Approved:

John J. Tubby
April 5, 1937

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